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# SCIENCE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 1912

*A NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, A NATIONAL  
ASSET; AN INSTRUMENTALITY FOR  
ADVANCED RESEARCH*<sup>1</sup>

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## GUIDING PRINCIPLE

At the outset the guiding principle may be laid down that at Washington there is no necessity for a university of a type which exists elsewhere, no need of an additional university like the great endowed and state institutions of the country. One who advocates a national university at Washington with the idea that it shall be a larger Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Cornell or Chicago, a larger Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota or California, will fail in his advocacy, because he can not give to congress a sufficient reason for the expenditure of public funds for another university of a kind of which there is a sufficient number. Not only would such an advocate be met by the above fact, but by the fact that in Germany, where universities are most highly developed, they are state, not national, institutions.

If then it is not desirable to establish a bigger Harvard at Washington, what is the aim of those who are advocating a national university? It is to make available for the advancement of knowledge the unparalleled facilities of Washington to graduate students.

At Washington are the Congressional Library, the National Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, the Geological Survey, the Bureau of Mines, the Naval Observatory, the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, the Army and Medical Mu-

<sup>1</sup> Prepared for the meeting of the National Education Association, held in Chicago, July 6-12, 1912.